

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 1. Type of Submission:

- ☒ Preapplication
☐ Application
☐ Changed/Corrected Application

* 2. Type of Application:

- ☒ New
☐ Continuation
☐ Revision

* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):

* Other (Specify):

* 3. Date Received:

04/05/2013

4. Applicant Identifier:

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:

5b. Federal Award Identifier:

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:

7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name:

State of Idaho, Department of Fish and Game

* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):

82-6000952

* c. Organizational DUNS:

8252015100000

d. Address:

* Street1:

Street2:

* City:

County/Parish:

* State:

 ID: Idaho

Province:

* Country:

 USA: UNITED STATES

* Zip / Postal Code:

83707-0025

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:

Wildlife Bureau

Division Name:

Habitat

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:

* First Name:

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Suffix:

Title: Staff Biologist

Organizational Affiliation:

* Telephone Number:

Fax Number:

* Email:

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

A: State Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

Environmental Protection Agency

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

66.461

CFDA Title:

Regional Wetland Program Development Grants

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

EPA-REG10-WPDG13

* Title:

FY13 and FY14 Region 10 Wetland Program Development Grants

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

Building "Idaho's Wetlands" website for delivering maps, data, analyses, and tools for mitigation and restoration planning.

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**16. Congressional Districts Of:**

* a. Applicant ID-002

b. Program/Project 1, 2

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date: 01/01/2014

* b. End Date: 06/30/2016

18. Estimated Funding (\$):

* a. Federal	131,900.00
* b. Applicant	43,967.00
* c. State	0.00
* d. Local	0.00
* e. Other	0.00
* f. Program Income	0.00
* g. TOTAL	175,867.00

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

- ☐ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on .
- ☐ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
- ☒ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)**

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: * First Name:

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Suffix:

* Title: Assistant Wildlife Bureau Chief

* Telephone Number: Fax Number: * Email: * Signature of Authorized Representative: * Date Signed: 04/05/2013

BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

OMB Number: 4040-0006
Expiration Date: 06/30/2014

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY

Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	Total (g)
1. Building "Idaho's Wetlands" website for delivering maps, data, analyses, and tools for mitigation and restoration planning	66.461	\$	\$	\$ 131,900.00	\$ 43,967.00	\$ 175,867.00
2.						
3.						
4.						
5. Totals		\$	\$	\$ 131,900.00	\$ 43,967.00	\$ 175,867.00

SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES

6. Object Class Categories	GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY				Total (5)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
	Building "Idaho's Wetlands" website for delivering maps, data, analyses, and tools for mitigation and restoration planni	N/A			
a. Personnel	\$ 80,120.00	\$ 32,329.00	\$	\$	\$ 112,449.00
b. Fringe Benefits	28,843.00	11,638.00			40,481.00
c. Travel	698.00	0.00			698.00
d. Equipment	0.00	0.00			
e. Supplies	0.00	0.00			
f. Contractual	0.00	0.00			
g. Construction	0.00	0.00			
h. Other	900.00	0.00			900.00
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)	110,561.00	43,967.00			\$ 154,528.00
j. Indirect Charges	21,339.00				\$ 21,339.00
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)	\$ 131,900.00	\$ 43,967.00	\$	\$	\$ 175,867.00
7. Program Income	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

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SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES

(a) Grant Program		(b) Applicant	(c) State	(d) Other Sources	(e)TOTALS
8.	Building "Idaho's Wetlands" website for delivering maps, data, analyses, and tools for mitigation and restoration planni	\$ 43,967.00	\$	\$	\$ 43,967.00
9.					
10.					
11.					
12. TOTAL (sum of lines 8-11)		\$ 43,967.00	\$	\$	\$ 43,967.00

SECTION D - FORECASTED CASH NEEDS

	Total for 1st Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
13. Federal	\$ 46,073.00	\$ 11,518.00	\$ 11,518.00	\$ 11,518.00	\$ 11,519.00
14. Non-Federal	\$ 12,014.00	\$ 3,003.00	\$ 3,003.00	\$ 3,004.00	\$ 3,004.00
15. TOTAL (sum of lines 13 and 14)	\$ 58,087.00	\$ 14,521.00	\$ 14,521.00	\$ 14,522.00	\$ 14,523.00

SECTION E - BUDGET ESTIMATES OF FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BALANCE OF THE PROJECT

(a) Grant Program		FUTURE FUNDING PERIODS (YEARS)			
		(b)First	(c) Second	(d) Third	(e) Fourth
16.	Building "Idaho's Wetlands" website for delivering maps, data, analyses, and tools for mitigation and restoration planni	\$ 32,602.00	\$ 53,225.00	\$	\$
17.					
18.					
19.					
20. TOTAL (sum of lines 16 - 19)		\$ 32,602.00	\$ 53,225.00	\$	\$

SECTION F - OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION

21. Direct Charges:	\$110,562.00	22. Indirect Charges:	\$21,338.00
23. Remarks:			

A. COVER PAGE; 1. Project Title—Building “Idaho’s Wetlands” website for delivering maps, data, analyses, and tools for mitigation and restoration planning

2. TRACK 2; 3. Core Elements: Monitoring & Assessment (M & A) Strategy Refinement; Restoration & Protection (R & P) Goals; **4. Actions from Appendix A**—M & A: establish reference condition; evaluate environmental consequences of actions; improve site-specific management of wetland resources; develop geographically-defined wetland protection, restoration, and management plans; R & P: consider watershed planning, wildlife habitat, and other objectives in restoration/protection site selection process; provide guidance on appropriate restoration and management techniques and success measures

5. Applicant—Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG); DUNS #: 82-520-1510

6. Key personnel and contact information—[REDACTED] Wetland Ecologist

[REDACTED]

7. Geographic Location—Idaho (statewide, all HUC’s)

8. Total Project Cost and Request—Total Request from EPA = \$131,900; Total IDFG Non-federal Match = \$43,967; Total Project Cost = \$175,867

9. Abstract/project summary—We will build a database-driven “Idaho’s Wetlands” website that maximizes accessibility of data and information for the purpose of monitoring, assessing, restoring, and protecting wetlands. Users will utilize a map interface to query and download data and analyses; tools for planning, impact-analysis, and decision making; and reports, all specific to their project site and watershed. Links to wetland monitoring and assessment methods will be included. Existing reports, maps, and databases, form the foundation of the website. Two additional watershed and reference-based wetland planning tools will be produced, a wetland mitigation planning tool and wetland restoration planting guides.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION—1. Program Priorities—TRACK 2:

The goal is to create an engaging, easy-to-use, database-driven website that maximizes accessibility of data and information for the purpose of monitoring, assessing, restoring, and protecting Idaho's wetlands. Citizens, governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and consultants will use a map interface to query and download data and analyses; tools for planning, impact-analysis, and decision making; and reports, all specific to their project site and watershed. Links to wetland monitoring and assessment methods used in Idaho, and results of their application, will be provided. Non-technical educational materials will also be included.

Existing reports, maps, and databases, most resulting from past Wetland Program Development Grant (WPDG) projects, form the foundation of "Idaho's Wetlands" website. Two additional watershed and reference-based wetland planning tools (both with statewide coverage) will be produced from analysis of existing databases: (1) Wetland mitigation planning tool—According to the watershed in which an impact occurs, potential mitigation sites (based on condition estimated by our GIS landscape-scale assessment tool, wetland types present, and occurrence in ecologically similar watersheds to the impact site) will be identified in a map viewer. (2) Wetland restoration planting guides—Watershed-specific plant species lists, organized by habitat type, will be compiled from reference wetland sites. Reference wetlands will be determined using the landscape assessment tool, field descriptions, and other criteria. Lists will be generated from vegetation data collected at reference sites during past projects. Lists will be filtered to reference sites in watersheds ecologically similar to the restoration site of interest. These tools are designed to provide guidance on appropriate mitigation and restoration site selection and design. They increase the likelihood of successful mitigation and restoration of wetland function. These plant lists can be used to determine appropriate performance standards.

A website with these capabilities allows users to carefully evaluate the impacts of proposed projects on wetland resources. This gives agencies and landowners easy access to map and data tools they need to develop alternatives that avoid or minimize impacts to wetlands. Moreover, such a website provides complete background information necessary for performing both routine and complex planning and analysis tasks, ranging from wetland delineation to designing M & A plans, including the watershed and reference context needed to interpret M & A data. Information downloaded from the website will be useful for completing rapid assessments of function required for mitigation determinations.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) will host the website, with the goal of integrating wetlands data into IDFG's "Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information System (IFWIS)," currently the main source for fish, wildlife, and biodiversity data in the state. Wetlands data and map layers will be utilized by other online data delivery websites supported by IFWIS, namely Idaho's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) and Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT). SWAP promotes restoration and protection of high priority habitats (including wetlands) for at-risk wildlife species. CHAT identifies intact blocks of critical habitat for both common and rare species so that developments can be planned to avoid or minimize impacts to wildlife. All proposed activities aim to build Idaho's wetland program, do not include implementation, and are not regulatory requirements.

2. Description of Need—

Idaho currently lacks a centralized website solely dedicated to delivering the wealth of wetland maps, data, information, analyses, reports, and tools generated from nearly 20 years of WPDG-funded projects and other activities. This is a vital, but missing component in Idaho's wetland program. Currently, data and information is primarily accessed via static reports and manual queries of unlinked databases, spreadsheets, and spatial layers housed at IDFG. To service a

typical data request from agencies (e.g., Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), Idaho Parks and Recreation (IDPR), Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), US Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE), EPA, US Forest Service, and US Fish and Wildlife Service) consultants, or others reviewing, permitting, or planning projects, IDFG must piece together queries from multiple databases and spatial layers in a complex, inefficient, time-consuming exercise. The Idaho Wetland Conservation Strategy (IWCS), developed by the Idaho Wetlands Working Group (a statewide stakeholder group), recognized a need for more efficient data delivery in 2008. The IWCS included the objective of developing a publicly accessible GIS geodatabase and data clearinghouse. Both IDEQ and USACOE have recently expressed interest in using such a website for reviewing Clean Water Act S. 404 permit applications.

Since 2008, the public's knowledge of IDFG's wetland information has steadily grown, resulting in increased demand for data sharing. Now, IDFG, with Idaho's de facto wetland program and IFWIS (the state's web data delivery structure for biologic data), is in the best position to develop, house, and maintain "Idaho's Wetlands" website. Most enticing is the possible inclusion of the wetland site as a module in IFWIS, where wetland, biodiversity, and other geodatabases will form a seamlessly linked foundation. But, as noted in IWCS, funding is needed to kick-start construction of such a wetland data delivery system.

In addition to directly addressing IWCS objectives, the proposed project is supported by IDFG's guiding document, the "Compass." IDFG recognizes the growth in demand from both the license-purchasing (e.g., hunters and anglers) and general public for information about how and where to view wildlife in their native habitats, including wetlands. The proposed website will provide maps and descriptions of Idaho's best wetlands to visit for all forms of recreation. This can lead to

increased public support for wetland protection and possible income for IDFG to help sustain habitat quality and web data delivery systems.

This project builds on prior wetland programmatic work. IDFG has used prior WPDG's to build a landscape-scale wetland condition assessment tool, conduct inventory of ecologically significant wetlands, define a preliminary reference wetland network, classify ecologically similar watersheds for hydrogeomorphic wetland profiling, and test and apply monitoring and assessment methods. All of these projects are the source of data and information for the proposed website.

3. Outputs, Outcomes, and Results—i. Outputs (project products):

All outputs are described by Task in Section 4 below. Three main outputs will result: (1) a database-driven website that gives users a map interface from which to query and download data, analyses, tools, reports, and M & A information specific to their project area and watershed; (2) a watershed-based wetland mitigation site planning and mapping tool; 3) watershed-specific wetland restoration planting guides based on vegetation data from reference wetlands.

ii. Outcomes (project objectives):

Specific project objectives are to: (1) increase access to accumulated wetland data, analyses, tools, and reports; (2) improve efficiency in creating data products specifically tailored to a project site and the watershed containing the project; (3) maximize use of data, analyses, tools and reports so that wetland impacts are avoided or minimized; (4) further the concept of a watershed approach to wetland mitigation and increase the likelihood that mitigation sites will be properly placed on the landscape; (5) improve restoration planning efficiency and increase project success by facilitating appropriate choices of native plant materials.

This project will result in an expertly designed, efficient, aesthetically pleasing, and educational “Idaho’s Wetlands” website. A greater portion of the public, both experts and the non-technical

audience, will gain better understanding of Idaho's wetland types, extent, condition, threats, restoration, and protection than prior to the site's existence. Information and tools will be used to inform a variety of wetlands-related tasks, from delineation to IDEQ's Clean Water Act S. 401 reporting, and USACOE permitting process to revision of Idaho's SWAP. We believe that increased access to information creates a more informed public which will translate into increased support for wetlands restoration and protection. In addition, decision makers can use these science-based tools and data to support and defend their management, restoration, and protection decisions.

iii. Link to EPA Strategic Plan—

These objectives all directly link to Objective 2.2 of the EPA Strategic Plan, Protect and Restore Watersheds and Aquatic Ecosystems--working with partners to achieve a net increase wetlands, with a focus on biological and functional measures and assessment of condition. The proposed website will provide landowners, managers, and partners easy access to information necessary for effectively and efficiently assessing, monitoring, and managing wetlands. The outcome will be increased restoration and protection, and improvement of the health and function of Idaho's wetlands. By improving access and delivery of data, analyses, landscape-scale condition assessment, maps, decision-support tools, and other information, this project will highlight where wetland creation, restoration, or enhancement is needed across the state. The website will include M & A methods (Levels 1 - 3) used in Idaho, and reports showing testing, sampling design, and application. This will address the problem of inadequate monitoring by increasing biological, functional, and condition assessment and furthering a wetland M & A program in Idaho. Wetlands will be placed in a watershed context and reference wetlands identified.

Although IDFG is hosting the proposed website and supplying most of the data and information, the site will be designed to incorporate any wetlands data, maps, or other

information generated by partners that meets basic criteria (e.g., science or policy based, non-opinion) and quality standards. The website will be all encompassing and designed for a wide stakeholder audience that needs to know more about the benefits, condition, function, and management of wetlands in their watersheds. With this non-exclusive approach, partnerships between IDFG, IDEQ, USACOE, ITD, NGOs, and others will likely strengthen, ideally creating a solid long-term financial support mechanism.

iv. Tracking Outputs and Outcomes—

Progress toward achieving outputs will be tracked via an Idaho wetland blog established on the IDFG website. Periodic blog posts will highlight aspects of Idaho's wetland program, including news, release of products, and other items of interest for public education about wetlands. Each quarter, a special blog post will specifically detail to the EPA (who will be notified of updates) progress toward meeting project objectives. These will include accomplishments toward meeting work plan tasks, identification of problems, suggestions for improvement, and updated schedules. Blog posts will be purposefully brief, but more frequent and current than progress reports for past WPDG-funded projects. Any delays will be communicated to the EPA grants manager.

Environmental improvement outcomes will be measured by using web analytics tools that specifically monitor: (1) Exit rates, or how many people left the website through a particular page, and bounce rates, or tell you how many people left the website without visiting a second page or who spent less than 10 seconds on the site; (2) event tracking, or every action that indicates the user is becoming more interested in the web page (e.g., clicks, scrolls, comments, video plays, etc.), and responses to calls-to-action (e.g., opportunities for downloading data, tools, etc.). The goal is to minimize exit and bounce rates and maximize actions and responses taken by users.

Other metrics are measured by tracking the completion of tasks necessary to create the website and tools that did not exist prior to the project.

4. Project Tasks, Milestone Schedule, Methods, Roles, and Products

Task 1: Assembling the data and information foundation for Idaho's Wetlands website: **Phase (a)** compile, cleanup, and organize existing data, information, and spatial layers; **Phase (b)** modify existing databases, construct new relational databases as necessary; **Milestone Schedule:** **(a) 1/1 - 9/30/2014; (b) 7/1 - 3/30/2015**

Phase (a): Currently, Idaho's wetland data, maps, and information are primarily found in unlinked databases, spreadsheets, spatial layers, and static reports housed at IDFG. Because this data was collected and archived using a variety of methods over 20 years, there are inconsistencies in data storage formats and metadata may be missing. There is a need to clean up and organize older datasets to bring them up to current quality standards. **Methods:** We will compile and organize all existing wetlands-related data and information, including (but not limited to): map layers (e.g., potential occurrence of wetland habitat (derived from National Wetlands Inventory, ecological system land cover maps, and National Hydrographic Dataset); hydric soils; watershed type classification; landscape-scale wetland condition assessment tool; proposed conservation sites and reference wetlands); wetland and riparian vegetation database (MS Access) housing over 5,000 plot and observation field samples, including environmental settings and classification information at various levels; spreadsheets (e.g., rapid assessment of condition and function field data; monitoring data; lists of at-risk habitats, plant associations, and wetland dependent plants and animals; miscellaneous lists and summaries); text descriptions of proposed conservation sites, reference wetlands, and restored wetlands, plant associations, etc.; photos; and reports (e.g., watershed-based wetland conservation strategy reports; statewide wetland prioritization results

(e.g., Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Plans (SCORTP), Western Governor's Association CHAT for wetlands); IWCS; and IDFG's Wetland Program Plan (WPP); etc.). Any other pertinent wetland data held outside IDFG will be solicited from partners. Data cleanup will include removing redundant information, correcting any errors, organizing information in the most efficient manner for web access, and updating to current classification standards. **Phase (b):** A necessary step in creation of a dynamic website will be modification of existing databases and construction of new relational databases so that all data and information is in the proper format for building the foundation of a data-driven website. **Methods:** Existing databases will be converted to types best for online data delivery systems (e.g., SQL). This step includes incorporation of all data not yet stored (e.g., spreadsheets) into relational databases. In addition, all map layers need to be included in geodatabases with adequate metadata and consistent spatial attributes. **Roles:** The wetland ecologist will be responsible for data compilation, cleanup, and organization (Phase a). The Database / GIS analyst, under guidance from the website development team, will complete data conversion and geodatabase construction (Phase b).

Task 1 Products: **Due quarterly:** Progress reports submitted to EPA posted on the blog summarizing data cleanup and preparation for website construction; **Both Phase (a) and (b) due 3/30/2015:** Completed, checked, and converted databases ready for web data delivery will be made available to the EPA.

Task 2: Development of a watershed-based mitigation and restoration planning tools: **Phase (a):** Wetland mitigation planning tool; **Phase (b):** Wetland restoration planting guides; **Milestone**

Schedule: (a) 7/1 - 12/31/2014; (b) 10/1 - 3/30/2015

Past WPDGs were used to perform wetland inventories and develop a GIS landscape-scale wetland condition assessment tool, results of which were applied in identifying potential reference

wetlands for part of the state. Reference sites included Class I and Class II wetland conservation sites and minimally disturbed wetland pixels identified by the landscape assessment tool. Another product included hydrogeomorphic (HGM) profiling of watersheds (HUC 12s) according to the abundance and diversity of hydrologic and geomorphic settings present, so that ecologically similar watersheds can be compared. This entailed classifying watersheds using multivariate analysis of climatic, hydrologic, geologic, and soil attributes in each watershed. Tools developed for this task will utilize these products and expand the reference wetland network statewide.

Phase (a): Watershed-based wetland mitigation planning tool. **Methods:** Potential mitigation sites will be based on condition estimated by the landscape-scale assessment tool (e.g., moderately to severely disturbed wetlands and areas of hydric soils potentially supporting wetlands that may have been lost) and described by the wetland types present. They will be organized by watershed type (HGM profile) so that sites in watersheds ecologically equivalent to watershed containing the impact site will be listed. Results will be queried by watershed in a map viewer on the website (Task 3). **Phase (b):** Watershed-specific wetland restoration planting guides. **Methods:** Watershed-specific plant species lists, organized by habitat type, will be compiled from reference wetland sites. Reference wetlands will be determined using the landscape assessment tool (minimally to lightly disturbed wetland blocks of connected pixels), field descriptions (from past inventories), and other criteria. Lists will be generated from vegetation data collected at reference sites during past inventory projects. Lists will be filtered to reference sites occurring in ecologically similar watersheds as the restoration site of interest. Plant species data will be summarized by community dominance, minimum, maximum, and mean cover, nativity, and wetland indicator status--all metrics useful for planning and monitoring.

Roles: The wetland ecologist, with advice from Database / GIS Analyst, will build the wetland

mitigation tool and restoration guides, prepare data and layers for website inclusion, and write a technical report describing methods, results, and application of both tools.

Task 2 Products: **Phase (a) Due 3/30/2015:** Spatial layers for both tools will be completed and integrated into the final database structure for inclusion on the website (Task 1). **Phase (b) Due 6/30/2015:** A brief technical report describing tool development will be submitted to the EPA.

Task 3: Building “Idaho’s Wetlands” website: **Phase (a):** Website construction and alpha testing; **Phase (b):** Website completion, beta testing, and public rollout;

Milestone Schedule: (a) 1/1/2015 - 12/31/2015; (b) 1/1/2016 - 6/30/2016

Phase (a): Website design, development, and alpha testing. **Methods:** IDFG’s web design and development team will work with the Wetland Ecologist (who will convey partner input) to create the site design and page templates. They will then take the foundational data, maps, information, and tools from Tasks 1 and 2 and build the underlying data delivery architecture necessary for website. To facilitate data queries, a map viewer interface will be included. This phase involves all aspects of HTML and CSS code writing. Additional content will be uploaded and links established. Internal alpha testing will be performed to validate code, test functionality, and links. The website will use the highest, modern web design standards and be consistent with IDFG’s website. **Phase (b):** Modifications and beta testing. **Methods:** Results of alpha testing will be used to correct problems and polish the website for maximum functionality. The website will be transferred to a live server and released to partners for beta testing. Results of beta testing will be used to make final modifications to the website necessary for public release. **Roles:** IDFG’s web design and development team, working collaboratively with the Wetland Ecologist and Database / GIS Analyst, will lead construction and rollout of Idaho’s Wetlands website. The wetland ecologist will

monitor website development progress, ensuring that it remains on the proposed timeline, and facilitate beta testing with partners.

Task 3 Products: **Phase (a) Due 12/31/2015:** An alpha version of the website will be made available to the EPA. **Phase (b) Due 6/30/2016:** The final version of “Idaho’s Wetlands” website will be made publicly accessible, hosted on IDFG’s website.

5. Partnership Information—IDFG regularly collaborates with state, federal, and local agencies, tribes, NGOs, and citizens on wetland issues. Within IDFG, we are reaching out to Environmental Staff Biologists and Habitat Biologists who demand more efficient access to wetland data, analyses, restoration tools, and M & A information so that site design serves their needs. We are also developing a plan for how and when wetland databases can be integrated into IFWIS for a seamless connection within existing web data delivery systems, SWAP, and CHAT. We are currently discussing with IDEQ on how the website can best meet their needs for Clean Water Act condition reporting for wetlands and water quality. We are also meeting with USACOE to ensure information necessary for reviewing S. 404 permits and mitigation is easily accessed on the website. IDFG is involved with the Intermountain Joint Venture’s Idaho State Conservation Partnership. Input from the partnership will be incorporated in the website to provide bird habitat restoration, protection, and management information. Input from additional partners, including citizens, NGOs, counties, natural resource agencies, and resource users will be welcomed and solicited. Partners will be contacted for information they have to contribute to the website.

6. Milestone Schedule—See Section 4 above.

7. Detailed Budget Workplan—See page 16.

8. The proposed project does not include a Restoration Demonstration Project.

9. Programmatic Capability/Technical Experience/Qualifications—

The experience gained from 17 years of WPDG-funded projects has made IDFG a state leader in wetland inventory, assessment, conservation, restoration, and data management. IDFG is now viewed by stakeholders as the state's best source for wetlands data, M & A, and technical assistance in restoration. This proposal builds off prior work IDFG has conducted since the mid-1990s using WPDGs. The first 10 inventory projects (1996-2007) created a wetland site database and conservation strategies for watersheds covering about two-thirds of Idaho. In 2006, IDFG led development of the IWCS. Starting in 2007, IDFG created a Landscape-scale Assessment Tool and applied it in conservation and restoration planning scenarios. IDFG recently used a WPDG to assess restoration outcomes and create a watershed-based framework for a restoration monitoring. We are currently completing a WPP for IDFG managed wetlands, including mapping and M & A enhancement, which aims to be a model for a statewide WPP.

IDFG is the lead state agency for wildlife and plants and employs a diverse staff with decades of combined wetlands experience. It has a trained science, technical, and information technology staff capable of completing the project. Because wetlands are considered critical habitat for game and non-game species, IDFG has committed financial resources in support of this project. The project leader will be [REDACTED], Wetland Ecologist (full time staff biologist; 13 years of wetlands experience and training; contributed to, managed, and/or completed 10 prior WPDGs). He will compile all data and information in the necessary formats for web delivery. IDFG's experienced web design and development team will design and build the site, test functionality, fix bugs, and maintain it over time. A Database / GIS Analyst (with previous wetland-related spatial analysis experience) will assist with data management and ensuring database structure is appropriate for the website. Other staff (e.g., program coordination, financial/grants management, office assistant) will provide input and support. The project lead will work with

partners and IDFG biologists to ensure their input is incorporated. The project lead, Database / GIS analyst, and web design team will be responsible for completing all tasks.

10. Transfer of Results and Outreach—

The goal of this project is to transfer results of past WPDG and other wetland projects to the maximum number of users possible. Efforts to elevate the “Idaho’s Wetlands” website in search engine results will be made. In addition to completion of the website, we will use an Idaho wetland blog, hosted on the IDFG website to highlight work from Idaho’s wetland program, including interesting current topics, new products, and other items of interest for public education about wetland resources. The design of the website will guarantee that any user, including the EPA, will have access to all data, maps, and information. Sensitive data (e.g., endangered species locations) will not be made publicly available or only in a way that protects the specific location from being known.

C. PAST PERFORMANCE—IDFG has received 15 WPDGs to build Idaho’s wetland program. During the last 3 years, 3 WPDG funded projects similar in size and scope to this proposal have been completed, or are in progress: (1) Application of the Landscape-scale Assessment Tool for conservation and restoration planning in 5 scenarios across the state; (2) Assessment of restoration outcomes—creating a framework for Idaho’s wetland restoration monitoring program; and (3) Developing a Wetland Program Plan for Idaho—A model state plan focused on IDFG wetlands (in progress). We also recently completed a significant federal US Forest Service grant-funded riparian restoration planning and implementation project in the Grimes Creek watershed, in partnership with Idaho Department of Lands and Trout Unlimited. i. For each of these projects, we completed required tasks without going over the proposed budget. Final products reflected what was proposed in the original work plan. ii. Recently completed projects each required

extensions of original end dates, mainly due to an underestimation of the time needed to complete necessary, complex technical tasks. This grant incorporates a longer milestone schedule than past grants for those reasons. IDFG is currently using a WPDG to write a WPP, and to improve mapping and M & A. Progress on work plan tasks is following the schedule thus far.

D. Quality Assurance/Quality Control—Because the primary goal of the project is to create a database-driven website, monitoring the quality of data and information will be a high priority. For example, data and information presented on the website will be science-based and sourced from projects that used existing methods approved by the EPA for wetland mapping, inventory, monitoring, and assessment. All databases, spreadsheets, and spatial layers will be checked for accuracy and necessary modifications made before incorporating into the website. IDFG has high standards for website design and function which will also apply to creation of the “Idaho’s Wetlands” website. For nearly 25 years IDFG has been the central repository for wetland, habitat, and biodiversity data in Idaho, servicing over 2,000 data requests per year. Six major databases, each with standards for quality control currently reside at IDFG: Animal Conservation Database, Idaho Wetlands Information System (conservation sites), Idaho Wetland and Riparian Vegetation Database, Plant Conservation Database, StreamNet, and Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information System. A QA/QC plan will be developed if required by EPA.

E. Invasive Species Control—This project doesn’t have a field component, however, IDFG requires staff to follow necessary, established protocols and precautions to prevent spread of invasive species. If invasive species are detected, locations are recorded and land managers and Idaho Department of Agriculture contacted to initiate control actions.

7. Budget Narrative—All costs are based on 2012-2013 IDFG salary rates and federal agreements.

Budget Categories	Total Months	Task 1 (2014-2015)		Task 2 (2014-2015)		Task 3 (2015-2016)		Summary Totals	
		EPA	Match*	EPA	Match*	EPA	Match*	EPA	Match*
Personnel									
Wetland Ecologist	12.0								
GIS Analyst	3.5								
Web Developer	4.7								
Program Oversight	2.2								
Admin./Finance Asst.	0.1								
Personnel Salary Total									
Fringe Benefits (avg. % of salaries)									
Personnel & Fringe Total		38,319	12,014	26,330	11,946	44,314	20,007	108,963	43,967
Travel (Conference Attendance)				698				698	0
Supplies, Staff Training (Other)								0	0
computer rental, software		300		300		300		900	0
general staff technical training								0	0
Operating Total		300	0	998	0	300	0	1,598	0
Indirect Costs = 19.30% of Pers. & Oper. (fy2013 federal agreement)		7,454		5,274		8,611		21,338	0
Summary Project Totals		46,073	12,014	32,602	11,946	53,225	20,007	131,900	43,967
*match source is IDFG non-federal license dollars									
Note: Salaries based on 2013 mid-line rates; No contractual expenses are expected.									